First Named Inventor: Timothy A. Mertens

Application No.: 09/996,155

REMARKS

Amendments to the Specifications

Applicants have made amendments to the specification to more accurately reflect the current status of the patent applications cited therein. The Examiner's acceptance of these changes is respectfully requested.

**Double Patenting Rejections** 

The Office Action stated that claims 20-24 and 31-33 were rejected under the judicially created Doctrine of Obviousness-Type Double Patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,352,751 to Miles in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,283,091 to Darvell. The Office Action stated that a timely filed Terminal Disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.321 may be used to overcome this rejection. Accordingly, an appropriate Terminal Disclaimer accompanies this Amendment. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejections of claims 20-24 and 31-33 is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 25-30 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but the Office Action indicated that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 25 and 28 are accordingly rewritten in independent form. Claims 26-27 depend from claim 25 and claims 29-30 depend from claim 28. Therefore, notice of the allowability of claims 25-30 is respectfully requested.

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## CONCLUSION

Applicants have attempted in earnest to address each issue raised by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully request notice of the allowability of pending claims 20-33. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this paper or credit any over payment to deposit account No. 11-0982.

Respectfully submitted,

KINNEY & LANGE, P.A.

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